

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 237240 TOSEC 100061
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237240 TOSEC 100061

FOR ATHERTON FROM DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, US, IZ

SUBJECT:BAGHDAD'S NEW PRINCIPAL OFFICER

1. FOLLOWING THE DECISION YOU AND PHIL HABIB MADE NOT TO GIVE ED PECK THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER COUNSELOR AT THIS TIME, I ASKED DAVID MACK WHETHER HE HAD EVER MENTIONED TO THE IRAQIS THAT MARTHINSEN WAS TO HOLD THIS RANK. MACK REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING ABOUT RANK IN THE OFFICIAL NOTE INFORMING THE IRAQIS BUT THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT THIS MATTER, AND DAVID REPLIED ORALLY THAT MARTHINSON WAS TO BE DESIGNATED MINISTER COUNSELOR. IRAQIS ARE PECULIARLY PROTOCOL AND RANK CONSCIOUS.

2. I SUGGEST YOU RECONSIDER THE DECISION DEPENDING ON HOW THE TALKS GO WITH HAMMADI. IF THE IRAQIS ASK ABOUT
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ED PECK'S RANK IN NEW YORK, WE MIGHT SIMPLY SAY THAT WE ARE STILL CONSIDERING THE MATTER. SINCE ED PECK WILL BE TAKING NOTES FOR THE MEETING AND MAY BE INTRODUCED TO THE IRAQIS AS THE NEW PRINCIPAL OFFICER, HE SHOULD BE GIVEN YOUR GUIDANCE, FOR HE MAY HAVE LATER OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW YORK TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH MEMBERS OF THE IRAQI DELEGATION.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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